

QUESTIONS

For Students

1. What is a stereotype?
 - a. What stereotypes do you hear about different religious groups, from your friends, family or others in the community?
 - b. What are the stereotypes you hear or see in the media/social media about people from different religious groups?
 - c. What stereotypes do people have about your religious tradition, belief system or non-religious belief system?
 - d. Can you go through today's newspaper, or online, and identify examples of religious stereotypes? Are they obvious or subtle? Why is that important?
 - e. How have religious stereotypes led to mistreatment or bullying of others in our school?

2. Have you noticed bullying and/or cyber bullying at our school?
 - a. What are some of the things that motivate people to bully?
 - b. What is our response?
 - c. How have you responded, when you heard stereotypes, saw bullying or a hate crime?
 - d. What can we do to prevent such incidents?

3. What is the relationship between bullying and hate crimes? Between bullies and hate groups? Between prejudice and hatred?

4. How can awareness of different types of hate groups and hate crimes help to combat prejudice?

5. How could more knowledge of different religions enhance our interactions with people from diverse backgrounds? Do you think it is important to be aware of various world religions? Why or why not?
 - a. Can you identify similarities and differences among different religious beliefs?

6. There is a lot of information about Muslims all around us.
 - a. When we look at the facts, what is surprising?
 - b. How do you respond to the demographical data about Muslims in the United States?
 - c. How do the experiences of Muslims in the United States compare to the experiences of other religious and/or immigrant groups in the United States, both historically and presently? Are there any cycles or patterns that seem to recur over time? What can we learn from such trends?
 - d. Are there any similarities between Islam and your beliefs (religious or non-religious)?
 - e. What informs perceptions of Muslims in the United States? What can be done to change inaccurate perceptions?

7. Who is targeted in the United States?
 - a. Does anything strike you about the history of opposition to places of worship and religious practices in the United States?
 - b. Do you notice any trends?
 - c. Are there / what are the similarities and differences between what happened near Ground Zero with Park51 and other communities throughout U.S. history who opposed the building of houses of worship and religious practices?
 - d. Do the cases presented (and others you may know about) challenge the notion of the United States as a land of religious freedom? How so?

8. Although the proposed Park51 community center is located in lower Manhattan, the controversy surrounding it swept across the nation and globe.
 - a. Is this a local issue, a national issue or a global issue?
 - b. What do you think the broader impact and implication of this issue is/will be?

9. Our school is one school. Are we one community and homogeneous or are we diverse?
 - a. What is diversity?
 - b. How diverse is our school?

- c. How do you interact with students who are different from you?
 - d. How do you think our school compares to the larger community in terms of diversity? Think about both our local community and broader communities, such as our state, the U.S., and the world.
10. Do you think diversity is important? Why?
- a. What can we learn from people whose experiences are different from our own?
 - b. Are differences normal?
11. What do you know about 9/11? What do you think you know? What do you want to know?
12. Where were you on September 11, 2001?
13. How did you react to the death of Osama Bin Laden? What will be the lasting impact of this event?
14. How has the world changed over the past ten years as a result of 9/11?
15. Who were the victims of 9/11? How do you define victims?
- a. Who were the perpetrators of 9/11? How do you define perpetrator?
 - b. Who were the first responders of 9/11?
16. Is it important to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of 9/11? If yes, why? If not, why not?

Supported by grants from the Open Society Foundation, the One NYC One Nation Fund in the New York Community Trust, Collegiate Church Corporation and Emigrant Bank, Lead Corporate Sponsor of Prepare New York.